TULLY & ARN JUMP TO WWF, EXPECTED TO START IN 4 WEEKS; MIDNIGHT EXPRESS WIN WORLD TAG TITLES IN PHILADELPHIA

In a late development, the long-rumored defection of two key members of Jim Crockett Promotions' Four Horsemen to Titan Sports is finally a reality.

In an apparently unplanned move, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson dropped the NWA World Tag Team Championship Saturday night in Philadelphia to the Midnight Express (which now hold both the world and U. S. belts) and have signed with the WWF. Tully & Arn both missed national NWA TV tapings Sunday.

The deal, which apparently occurred as much over dissatisfaction with the dragging sale negotiations between JCP and Ted Turner as with money, will put Tully & Arn to work as soon as early October.

Blanchard ends an association of nearly five years with JCP. He signed with Crockett in December 1983 and soon afterward began a 13-month reign as NWA TV champion. His early NWA days saw him team with a "turned" Wahoo McDaniel as the "Awesome Twosome," which repeatedly attacked the babyface Ric Flair in the Carolinas.

Blanchard won the TV title on two other occasions and enjoyed a three-month stint as U. S. champion with a controversial win over Magnum T. A. in late summer of 1985. Blanchard lost that belt back at Starrcade '85 in the now-legendary "I Quit" match. He defeated Dusty Rhodes for the now-defunct National title in early 1986. His stint with Anderson as NWA world tag champs has continued for a year.

Anderson came to JCP in March 1985, just three weeks before the Crocketts bought out Ole Anderson's Georgia Championship Wrestling, Inc. Arn and Ole immediately teamed after Arn began a feud with Manny Fernandez and Ole turned on national tag team co-champion Thunderbolt Patterson. The Andersons beat the Fernandez-Patterson combo in May 1985 to reunite the halves of the National belts. That reign lasted until Ole's "injury" at the hands of Dusty Rhodes on Jan. 1, 1986.

Arn later won a tournament for the NWA TV title. His TV stint ran until the fall of '86 when he lost on an NWA PRO TV match to Rhodes. Arn was embroiled in the family feud when Ole left the Horsemen and was turned on by the other members. That feud reignited when Ole returned to the NWA for two months, beginning Christmas night 1987.

The acquisition brings on two immediate impacts: (1) it gives Titan two outstanding pure wrestlers/heels and top quality tag team competitors who often have been ranked the best in the tag world in recent polls; and (2) it effectively kills the Horsemen angle and forces JCP to take a serious look at how it showcases Ric Flair. What this does to the Midnights' babyface situation is another story.

All of this occurs in a week where Jack Petrik of TBS is expected to fly to Dallas and POSSIBLY iron out details of a sale. A sale which obviously must occur soon if Turner hopes to keep Flair in the fold.

SEPT. 12-18

MATWATCH

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN,AL. 36830 (205)826-7522

VOL. 1, NO. 12

AND HOW WAS YOUR WEEK?

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Ladies and gentlemen, consider yourself part of a miracle that you are receiving this MATWATCH. Because I am fortunate to be here this week.

To be brief, Savannah and I have never had the happiest of relationships. This was a disastrous place to play high school basketball on the road. In 1983-84, I spent the longest ten years of any 365 days in history as news director of WSAV-TV. And while en route to a vacation finale in the North Carolina mountains, destiny met us here at the hands of a large transport truck.

Actually, an elderly woman---in the midst of a downpour---pulled into both eastbound lanes of a 4-lane highway with oncoming traffic. I dodged to avoid her and so did the trucker...but his swerve plowed into my side of our car. We're okay (Gordon Solie would have said, "Steve's leg is a crimson mask," from the shattered glass) but the car isn't and our vacation abruptly ended. But it could have been much worse.

Nevertheless, we did enjoy five days in Florida and I had a chance to scout the TV wrestling situation in three of the nation's top 25 markets---Orlando, Miami, and Tampa. And if anything confirms my theory that we are in a meltdown stage of pro wrestling, particularly on TV, check this out:

---In the Tampa-St. Petersburg market, No. 13 in the U.S., all of the wrestling is on independent stations. Solie's new Florida show gets two plays a week and the WWF gets a 7 p.m. Saturday slot on WTOG. WFTS, Ch. 28, offers World Class and reruns of Wild West. But in a city where the NWA was once perhaps the hottest in the nation, no Crockett program aired either Labor Day weekend or the one following. Is it any wonder that the Bash drew only 4,500 people this summer?

---The Miami market offered no wrestling on a network affiliate. Independent WCIX, soon to be owned by CBS, presents the WWF, Carribean (which is also offered in Spanish) and the World Wide show; some high-end UHF indies offer FCW and another WWF show but I counted only six hours available Labor Day weekend.

---In Orlando, perhaps the fastest growing TV market in America (23rd), WESH (the NBC station) offered WWF SUPERSTARS Saturday at 7. All the rest of the ring action belonged to TV 56 in Melbourne, a two-year-old indie on the fringe of the market, which is trying to build a big sports franchise in the region. The station does run a strip from 6:30-7:30 weeknights but two of the runs are of NWA MAIN EVENT (which also puzzingly runs a third time on Saturday mornings), one of NWA PRO and the other two, WWF CHALLENGE and SPOTLIGHT. The Florida show was not listed.

In addition, the Florida show gets a fairly good noon Sunday slot on WJKS in Jacksonville, the ABC station. But WNFT, one of the country's first channels to run nightly wrestling strip, has abandoned that.

I'm told that Tampa's WTVT, the old Florida/NWA outlet, does run the Crockett show but it is bounced all over the schedule for other sports. Personally, this is indicative to me of a lack of teeth in Crockett's contracts with a number of stations. In cities the size of those in Florida, Crockett should have an alternate slot clause in his deals to at least guarantee him a weekly time. Interestingly, even Vince McMahon has lost his Saturday night slot in Montgomery, Ala., for CHALLENGE during the NFL preseason and early college telecasts with no makeup slot.

For any promoter to run successful house shows in localized markets, more than cable telecasts have to be employed. Jim Crockett can't solely rely on TBS to sell a crowd in Tampa---too many shows have to be plugged only in generic fashion on the national show.

Similarly, if you wonder why the WWF hasn't been able to crack back in the top 15 of nationally syndicated shows since Nielsen stopped publishing each group's cumulative ratings (combined audiences for all of an alliance's syndicated programs), examine the number of markets in which his primary show is on weaker independents which do not have the drawing pull of a strong VHF, particularly a network affiliate.

In my closest market, Columbus, Ga., WXTX is hanging onto its 6 p.m. wrestling strip (GLOW, CHALLENGE, NWA PRO, CWF, SCW) because it average about a rating point better than more expensive off-network syndicated shows. But that is a growing exception because I've only been able to tally eleven strips left across the U.S. That comes on the heels of some advertising firms advising independents to counterprogram late-night network talk shows with wrestling.

About 20 months ago, Solie told me, "The ratings will eventually come down and some of the poorer shows will eventually be dropped because there simply will be too much on the air." His forecast is hitting home now. And next week, based on my vacation viewing (unless the story of the year breaks), I'll have a SIDELIGHTS insight into a man many of us know as The Dean: Gordon Solie.

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If you'll notice, we're using the legal sized format this week. Lots of mail to catch up on from many of you and more results to report with my early return from vacation.

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GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

I hate to be one of these early Christmas greeters...but a gift subscription of MATWATCH could be a nice gift for a fellow wrestling aficianado. Plus, for every 8-issue ($5) gift of MATWATCH you give, your subscription will be extended 2 weeks. To give a MATWATCH gift subscription, send check or money order to STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830 and send me the following form:

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COMINGS & GOINGS

---While the FLORIDA show still looks, at best, 1970-ish, the personality of it has picked up and the show moved much faster last weekend. Gordon works much better solo unless he has a strong color commentator.

---During the FCW show, Brett Sawyer openly acknowledged The Terminator (Marc Laurinidas) as being Road Warrior Animal's brother, something never done in the NWA. Also, with Dusty introducing his son "Dustin" Rhodes, one wonders how far Jim Crockett would go in allowing another wrestler to make a crossover tape for another show?

---The Florida group is running a series of battle royals in September. The group has introduced Joe Whitehead as "The Iron Priest." Joe is from St. Matthews Catholic Church in Jacksonville. FCW is also running a wrestling school at the old Sportatorium, 106 N. Albany, in Tampa.

---A final FCW note: the shows are produced at WEDU, the public TV station in Tampa. I always knew PBS stations were noted for high-brow programming.

---Received a nice call from David Woods, the owner of CWF and WCOV-TV in Montgomery. David says Continental's 2-a-night schedule is "on a trial basis for six weeks." If it proves unsuccessful, CWF will go back to a single nightly show in mid-October. "Part of the reasoning," says Woods, "is we're trying not to take the same show to a town twice in a row...plus, we're able to give our guys some extra bookings."

---Bam Bam Bigelow will work the CWF 8-12 weeks a year. He plans to work Japan 12-14 weeks at about $100,000 per year and add another $50,000 with CWF.

---Woods is going to run LEARNING THE ROPES (the Lyle Alzado/NWA sitcom) at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays as a lead-in to a two-hour wrestling block. I'd like to know from you MATWATCHers when that show airs in your market (I'm planning to review it and give the weekly storyline in TV TEMPO). It premieres Oct. 1.

---The CWF is moving back to the strong WBRC (ABC's Ch. 6) in Birmingham in mid-October. Says Woods: "That's a great move for us, but I sure wish it came before THE ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM." A deal is close with a VHF station in Mobile-Pensacola and Woods is also talking with network affiliates in Tallahassee and Chattanooga.

---The CWF draws a 6 rating and 15 share in its Saturday at 7 slot on WCOV, running second only to one of the nation's top-rated local newscasts on WSFA. But in the 6:30-7 half-hour, CWF Wrestling wins the time period, beating WHEEL OF FORTUNE, and taking the key men 18-34 demographics for the hour.

---Titan Sports claims a 7.8% buy-in for SUMMER SLAM '88, or 900,000 homes. Electronic Media quotes Titan officials as estimating a gross of $13-$18 million on the show. The lower figure is probably correct on PPV homes if Titan is telling the truth.

---ANGLE editor Bill Kunkel and two other MATWATCHers at the live show tell me SUMMER SLAM was one of Titan's three best arena efforts ever which is more indicative to me that the TV show was a big letdown.

---WWF at Tampa's SunDome 10/7: Hulk Hogan vs. Bubba Rogers Bossman; Jake Roberts vs. Rick Rude; Brutus Beefcake vs. Ron Bass; Sam Houston vs. Terry Taylor; Jim Brunzell vs. Curt Hennig; Rockers vs. Conquistadores.

---WWF in Orlando 9/4: Hogan d. Ted DiBiase; Anabolic Warrior d. Honky Tonk Man; Bossman d. B. Brian Blair; Hennig d. Brunzell; Demolition d. British Bulldogs.

---If you wonder why the ads for NWA PRO WRESTLING DIGEST have ceased, it's because the magazine is no longer an NWA publication. Editor Dennis Brent wrote me that he's embroiled in a money dispute with the Crocketts (why am I not surprised?) and the matter is now in the hands of attorneys.

---By the way, Dennis' PRO WRESTLING DIGEST is a fine magazine. It's $3 a month of $24.95 a year and the September issue features WWF, CWF, NWA and World Class news and one of the best profiles yet of NWA announcer Jim Ross. Order from PRO WRESTLING DIGEST at P.O. Box 6488, Dallas TX 75379.

---The Tommy & Johnny Rich turn has livened up the Southern promotion a bit. T & J look like a poor-man's Bret Hart (imagine saying that about an ex-NWA champ) with their slicked hair. They're in for a major feud with Mr. Wrestling II & Ranger Ross.

---The new SCW tag champs are Joel Deaton & Doug Sommers. A side note: Tommy Rich is out of ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM and Bigelow takes his place as #4 seed.

---This weekend's FNN/SCORE CWF show will be a highlight hour which includes the breakup of Austin Idol & Jerry Stubbs. Eddie Gilbert co-hosts with Charlie Platt.

---AWA/World Class in Medina OH Sept. 3: Jerry Lawler pinned Wahoo McDaniel to retain AWA title in 14:48; Michael Hayes/Kevin Von Erich d. Original Spoiler/Adrian Street in 2-3 falls (1. Street pinned Hayes in 8:52. 2. Hayes d. Street in 3:20. 3. Spoiler counted out.); Kamala d. Jimmy Valiant; Howard (The Animal) Steele d. Vladimir Markoff; Madusa Maceli double DQ vs. Fabulous Moolah for AWA ladies' title; Butch Cassidy d. Little Bad John; Psycho Mike d. Crusher Klebanski; Demon of Darkness d. Pedro Perez.

---MATWATCHer John Lanigan reports Dusty Rhodes in big trouble in Las Vegas. He was arrested for alleged drunk driving with an open bottle of Jack Daniels during the Bash. Dusty and his lawyer failed to show for a preliminary hearing last week.

---The NWA scheduled to lose its Pittsburgh TV slot this week.

---In Pittsburgh Oct. 1: North American title (lumberjack) match: Hercules Gavin (champion) vs. Goliath (the ex-Memphis biggie); Tri-State tag team title: Fabulous Heartbreakers vs. Dom DeNucci/Ken (The Beast) Ciminara; Bill Fishinger vs. Krusher Kruchev; North American TV title: Johnny Rotten vs. Jumpin' Jack Flash; Irish Red Walsh vs. Tuco the Bountyhunter; plus 15-man battle royal.

---Dennis Condrey now booked in Portland for Don Owen. The Southern Rockers have regained the Pacific Northwest tag titles and Col. DeBeers has the TV title.

---NWA is scheduled for Sept. 20 in Portland and locally, Ric Flair is being billed as taking on the Pacific Northwest champion (Scott Peterson, at this writing). I think that's a great move if it comes off because I always felt one of JCP's stupidest moves was to cut off relationships with the old NWA affiliates. But it's curious to me that they're making almost no noise about this card on IBS. It wasn't even listed in Saturday's lineup of cities.

---Sept. 24, the UWF (Japan) will begin its FIGHTING NETWORK SERIES. Maeda was expected to take on Yamakazi after Y's win over Nobuhiko Takada Aug. 8. but now a Yamakazi-Takada feud is likely to develop. Some speculation also has Joe Malenko coming in to take on Maeda in a future series.

---TBS's return to a studio show Saturday mornings is a bad move, in my opinion. Part of the reason may stem from the end of competition from WATL in the Atlanta market, which has moved the WWF to 11 p.m. But while I enjoyed seeing more spotlights on Brad Armstrong, the Sheepherders, and Ron Simmons, the program has the look of a "C" show and I don't expect any major angles to be used on that show.

---Interestingly, Larry Zbyszko got his first major interview push as Western States champion in months this past Saturday morning. Plus, it was one of the funniest interviews of the show.

---Irv Muchnick's appearance on the Fox LATE SHOW last Thursday night didn't really shed a lot of new light except to the "marks." He amplified the Penthouse article on the Von Erichs and basically labeled the family as frauds and exploiters of their sons' deaths.

---Muchnick likened World Class Championship Wrestling to TV evangelism, pointing out that the show is syndicated by a subsidiary of Pat Robertson's CBN Cable Network. Wonder why WCCW has never appeared on CBN?

---Finally, to my tape traders, if you'll be patient with me through this week, we'll have some out to you---a bit of insurance business to take care of after the accident and I'll have some dubbing time afterward. Thanks.

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CLASH III: POST MORTEM

While this had to go down as the worst-promoted of the three CLASH live events, one did see signs that someone is paying attention to production values.

Overall, the wrestling quality of these matches fell well short of the CLASH I (has anything topped that all year?) effort but the overall TV presentation was improved over the Bash PPV and CLASH II.

For one thing, we didn't have three run-in finishes and no on-the-street violence, as in the Flair-Luger tete a tete. Second, the crowd in Albany seemed to be much more up than the Miami Mayhem audience. Third, I didn't notice any glaring missed camera shots; and, fourth, the rotation of announcers was probably the best of all the shows.

Most notably, and this is one of my biggest soapboxes, the 2-minute opening sequence was as fine a scenesetter as I've seen this year for a big card. The DESIRE montage on Sting built him as the star of the show and showed his recent history of major matches. It did, for once, give one the impact that this is more than just an average wrestling show. It was far superior to the Bash---which should have been JCP's best effort.

Plus, we were given a taped replay of the Kevin Sullivan incident with Jimmy Garvin, something which went lacking on the Dusty-Tully angle in CLASH I.

Tony Schiavone seemed to be in the right role as the overall host (though I wonder if he was happy about it) and Ric Flair, if not wrestling, is an excellent analyst---plus he had his chance in the finale to do his usual schtick.

I won't spend a lot of time gloving over Jim Ross. He's the best play-by-play man in the sport and he was, for once, used properly. In addition, Bob Caudle is such an old smoothie that he makes it look easy and I think he's long been underrated for his quality. The Ross-Caudle team, while at times stepping on each other because Jim---usually in the color role---occasionally over-analyzed, blends as well as any in wrestling. I hope they're the combo on Dec. 7 at ringside (whomever owns the company).

What did we miss? Dressing room interviews...something this group is yet to do on a major card. I'd have liked to have seen them follow up on that DESIRE angle with Sting in the wings and a counterspot with Windham.

Plus, no Jim Cornette. These programs badly need his presence and Cornette was even used on the promo spots in a hilarious short sequence. He's the best phrasemaker in wrestling and it was almost unforgivable that we squashed Cornette two CLASHes running.

As for the matches, Brad Armstrong and Mike Rotunda offered a fine opener but I hope we're not getting clicheish with 20-minute draws in supercard kickoffs. The rest were basically brawls but that's what the show was billed: FALL BRAWL. The one tag match was acceptable, even if the one-sickle finish by Nikita was stretching it. I wish they'd let Dusty and Kevin have a retirement match at Starrcade. But I must admit, the crowd was popping for it fairly well.

In my view, the chain match came off rather well though I wish they'd had one camera tighter on Paul Jones' actions at the end (maybe in an insert shot). But I imagine you were annoyed they went to a break before the run-in by the Russian Assassins was over.

There's no way the Sting-Windham match could have matched Flair-Sting at Clash I but it was far better than the Windham-Luger events in early summer.

Just one bit of advice: please don't subject us to any more John Ayers interviews. The poor guy embarrasses himself as bad as he did as UWF commissioner.

The rating scale (on a 0-to-5 basis in each category): Overall Production, 3.9; Quality of Matches, 2.8; Crowd Enthusiasm, 3.6; Announcing, 4.2; Overall Excellence of Show, 3.3. TOTAL: 17.8, about three points higher than the BASH PPV.

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TV TEMPO (Weekend of Sept. 9-11)

RATINGS: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(FCW) - TV TITLE: Scotty the Body retains over Rex King; Brett Sawyer wins DQ over The Terminator when Dan Spivey interferes, Sawyer gets repeated double clotheslines until Dick Slater saves with chair; Bad Bob d. Lynn Austin; Iron Priest/Mark Starr d. Super Destroyer/Denny Brown by countout; Lou Perez d. Cliff Staff; Tyree Pride d. Bodacious Black Beauty before Jim Backlund does run-in. ANGLES: Backlund refuses to pay $500 fine; Mike Graham & Steve Keirn introduce U.S. Steel, who enters Tampa battle royal. DRAW.

(SCW) - "WORLD" JR. TITLE: Scott Armstrong retains over Chic Donovan; Johnny & Tommy Rich d. John Michaels/Jamie Kyle; Mr. Wrestling II d. Steve Bennett; Doug Sommers/Joel Deaton d. Ranger Ross/Joey Maggs when Doug hits Ross with knucks; Steve Lawler d. Eddie Sweat. ANGLE: Riches attack II/Ross at interview area when Rick Stewart tries to find out about Tommy's "problems"; rerun of Tommy's attack, whipping of Armstrong after Scott wins fan "popularity poll." DRAW-PLUS...one of this group's best efforts in weeks.

(CWF) - Highlight show: tale of Austin Idol-Jerry Stubbs split, including a Stubbs-Eddie Gilbert match where Idol saves and a Charlie Platt interview which ends in Stubbs suckerpunching Idol; RECAP MATCHES/ANGLES: Nelson Royal d. Danny Davis; Samoans/Honor Guard brawl; Gilbert-Idol-Willie B. Hert brawl; Gilbert/Paul E. Dangerously attack on Hert's son; Tony Anthony hanging Tom Prichard. DRAW...not as good as last highlight show. Charlie & Eddie talk a bit much and show rambles.

(W. CLASS) - Terry Gordy d. Tim Brooks; Super Black Ninja d. Jim Richardson; Iceman Parsons wins DQ over Kevin Von Erich; Samu draws with Michael Hayes, ends in 5-way brawl with Steve Cox, Fatu & Buddy Roberts

involved. RECAPS: Irwin-Black Bart, Simpsons-Tatum/Victory feuds. DRAW.

(NWA) - TBS/A.M.: Ron Simmons d. Agent Steel; Other squash winners: Sheepherders, Rick Steiner, Brad Armstrong, Al Perez, Fantastics. BOMB. TBS/P.M.: Gary Royal/Mike Jackson DQ over Midnight Express; Other squash winners: Sting, Simmons, Fantastics, Russian Assassin 1. Rock & Lightning Express, Varsity Club, Steve Williams, Zbyszko, Perez. ANGLES: replay of Sullivan "breaking leg" of Jimmy Garvin; Simmons challenges Sullivan to dog collar match next week. RESTHOLD. WORLD WIDE: Williams vs. Barry Windham ends as show goes off air; Squash winners: Road Warriors, Armstrong, Sullivan/Perez, Rip Morgan/Luke Williams, Russian Assassin 1. STRAIGHT TALK: Magnum with Jim Cornette. RESTHOLD...for last match. NWA PRO: Road Warriors/Sting d. Varsity Club/Sullivan when Kevin nails Steiner and Hawk scores pin; Squash wins: Simmons, Perez, Rock & Russian Express, Williams, Tully & Arn. DRAW...for opener.

(WWF) - SUPERSTARS: Rick Rude d. Tommy Angel, peels down to Cheryl Roberts tights, whereupon Jake the Snake runs in and rips the tights off Rude in their entirety; Squash winners: Bubba Bossman, Tito Santana, British Bulldogs, Ron Bass, Honky Tonk Man, Hart Foundation. ANGLE: Honky bashes Anabolic Warrior from behind with guitar during interview. POWERSLAM. CHALLENGE: The Blue Blazer (Owen Hart) d. George South; Other squash wins: Roberts, Demolition, King Haku, George Steele, Hart Foundation, Bolsheviks. ANGLES: Bro. Love with Frenchy Martin/Dino Bravo; Jack Tunney announces "$10,000 fine" on Ron Bass. RESTHOLD.

(AWA) - Top Guns d. Wayne Bloom/Brian Costello; Manny Fernandez d. Houdini; Greg Gagne d. Mike Smith; Col. DeBeers d. Todd Becker; Medusa Miceli d. Susan Sexton; Mat Classic: Jerry Blackwell d. The Crusher; CELEBRITY CORNER: Jerry Lewis. BOMB-PLUS but Greg's Crusher impersonation was watchable.

(PWIW) - WWC Achievement Awards; SCW, T. Rich/Maggs d. Firewalkers; MEMPHIS, Cactus Jack Foley/Gary Young/Jimmy Golden d. Scott Steiner/Shawn Baxter/Ray Odyssey; PORTLAND, Southern Rockers d. Beach Boys on reverse decision; CWF, Lord Humongous/Shane Douglas d. Nightmare Freddy/Ken Wayne on reversal. 7UP WRESTLER OF WEEK: Carlos Colon. POWERSLAM...best show of all this week, 3 title matches and Bobby Jaggers was great.

(CLASH III) - NWA TV TITLE: Brad Armstrong draw with Mike Rotunda; Williams/Nikita Koloff d. Sheepherders; Dusty Rhodes pins Gary Hart in wild finish to match vs. Sullivan; Ricky Morton d. Ivan Koloff in chain match and Uncle Ivan attacked by Paul Jones and Russian Assassins 1 & 11 afterward; U.S. TITLE: Sting DQ over Barry Windham when John Ayers tells Tommy Young Windham used chair. (Rating scale on Page 3).

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Jim Ross, CLASH III: "John Ayers wasn't All-Pro in the NFL because of his public speaking ability." 2. Solie, FCW, after kiss from Crystal Sky: "The ol' heart's pumping again." 3. Dusty Rhodes, FCW, on son Dustin's debut: "I'm gonna be watching. Eddie's gonna be looking down. The Briscos are gonna be watching. The Funks are gonna be watching." 4. Scott Levy, FCW: "I'm not a conventional kind of guy. I wear colored underwear." 5. Hayes, W. Class: "Heaven don't want me..and Hell's afraid I'll take over." 6. Scott Peterson, Portland: "Beach Boys, you better watch out. Next Saturday, we're gonna bust your balls." 7. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "What advice is Mathilda going to give you...what hydrant to go to? Oh, that's right, she doesn't lift her leg." 8. Wrestling 11, SCW, on attack by Rich: "I did not expect that but if that's what he's got, he ain't got much." 9. Irv Muchnick, Late Show: "Pro wrestling is kinda like Jim & Tammy Bakker with a dropkick." 10. Cornette, TBS: "I could go through J.J. Dillon like Ex-Lax goes through a widder woman."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Larry Zbyszko, TBS: "In a few more months, we're going to get a new puppet in the White House." 2. Ric Flair, CLASH III: "Life after football is not pro wrestling for you, John Ayers."

BURIAL AWARD - Eddie Gilbert, CWF: "Tommy Rich won't be in Birmingham because he's in a 'recovery hospital' from drinking too much beer."

BLOOPER AWARD - Ring announcer at CLASH III for calling Morton-Koloff match "a Texas chainsaw."

BEST PICTURE - Solie, with the biggest Cheshire cat grin and pause after getting kiss from Crystal Sky.

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